

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0916

USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13087

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: NORTHERN CROSSING POINT

REFS: (A) USBER 1604; (B) USBER 1495

1. BONN GROUP FRG REP (HENZE) HAS BRIEFED US ON A GAUS MEETING WITH SEIDEL, HEAD OF GDR MFA SECTION DEALING WITH FRG. THE MEETING CONCERNED THE NORTHERN CROSSING POINT AND OCCURRED ON JULY 21.

2 . ACCORDING TO HENZE, THE GDR USUALLY REFUSES TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC WITH THE FRG AND INSISTS ON DEALING ONLY WITH SENAT. IN ACCEPTING GAUS AS AN INTERLOCUTOR, SEIDEL EMPHASIZED THE CONVERSATIONS SHOULD BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL. HENZE, IN TURN, STRESSED THAT WE KEEP IT VERY CONFIDENTIAL.

3. GAUS SAID THAT THE GDR MUST GIVE THE SENAT A COM-CONFIDENTIAL

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PLETE CATALOGUE OF THE WORK REQUIRED TO OPEN THE

CROSSING POINT BEFORE ANY FURTHER TALKS TAKE PLACE. ONLY THEN COULD THE FRG MAKE UP ITS MIND ABOUT WHO SHOULD PAY COSTS. HE SAID THAT A SOLUTION FOR THE "DUCKBILL" REMAINS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM. THE ONLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WAS FOR THE FRG TO BUY THE PIECE OF LAND. IF THE GDR REFUSED TO AGREE TO SELL IT, NO SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE. FOR THE FRG, THAT WOULD BE A "SERIOUS POLITICAL DISAPPOINTMENT."

4. SEIDEL RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE COMPETENT GDR AUTHORITIES AND HAD NO COMMENT HIMSELF. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED HE WANTED ANOTHER MEETING AND THE GDR MUST, OF COURSE, ACT IN CONCERT WITH THE SOVIETS ON THIS PROBLEM. GAUS SPECULATED THAT THE LATTER REMARK REFLECTED MILITARY AS WELL AS POLITICAL CONCERNS.

5. COMMENT: TWO POINTS APPEAR TO BE IMPORTANT, FIRST, THAT SEIDEL WOULD AGREE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH GAUS AND, SECOND, THAT SEIDEL DID NOT REJECT THE "DUCKBILL" SOLUTION OUT OF HAND AS THE GDR DID WITH THE SENAT (SEE REF B). BOTH POINTS MAY MEAN THAT THE GDR IS BECOMING MORE FLEXIBLE ON THE SUBJECT.
HILLENBRAND

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